



Kristin Taylor Lukich marries Andrew Donald Berkowitz

Kristin Taylor Lukich and Andrew Donald Berkowitz, both of New York, N. Y., exchanged wedding vows in a beautiful ceremony Saturday, January 1, at six o'clock in the evening at Biltmore Ballrooms in Atlanta. Rabbi Josh Lesser of Atlanta officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Mary Beth and Jeff Lukich of Washington.

The bridegroom is the son of Joanne and Dr. Alan Berkowitz of Lititz, Pennsylvania.

An iron framed chuppah topped with white fabric stood at the altar. Foliage and vines including curly willow, Italian ruscus, pitosporum, magnolia, and smilax appeared to be growing up the front left, bottom right, and back right posts. White flowers including hydrangeas, roses, lisianthus, and dahlias with foliage trailed down to the floor on both sides where varying sizes of tall glass cylinders featured glowing white pillar candles. Four up lights lit each post.

East Coast Entertainment's string trio provided music for the occasion. The grandparents and parents were seated to "The Prayer" by Celine Dion and Bocelli while the bride processed to "Beth/Rest" by Bon Iver.

Albert Lanzillo of Los Angeles, California, served as best man. Ushers were cousin of the bridegroom, Joseph Soifer of New Orleans, Louisiana, Hurst Renner of New York, N. Y., and Daniel Hall of Miami, Florida. Groomsmen were Mike Olaya of Boston, Massachusetts, Derek Slesinger of Wilmington, Delaware, Ben Falandays of Merced, California, Wynn Koval of New York, N. Y., Spencer Small of Chicago, Illinois, Brent Hallinger of Dunedin, Florida, and the bride's brother, Boone Lukich of Washington.

Katelyn Benson of Atlanta served as the bride's honor attendant. She wore a beautiful floor-length black dress and carried bouquet of roses, ranunculus, and spray roses. Her hair was done in a romantic half up-style.

Bridesmaids were Maggie Butler of Dunedin, Florida, Ansley Nelson and Alex Walker of Washington, Savanna Ziegler, Emilee Hart, and Alaina Totten of Atlanta, Emma Bensimon of Boston, Massachusetts, and the bridegroom's sister, Lauren Berkowitz of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Their floor-length black gowns featured various necklines and their bouquets were white roses, ranunculus, and spray roses. Each chose to wear her in either half up or fully up hairstyles.

Given in marriage by her parents, the bride was stunning in her ivory satin A-line ball gown fashioned with a low back enhanced with crystal detailing and bow.

Her hair was styled in a long romantic braid with hairpieces of pearls and crystals.

She carried a bouquet of white cottage roses, white snowy jewel roses, and a pop of Sahara roses with extra-long exposed stems wrapped in white satin.

For special sentiment to the occasion, the bride wore the pearl earrings her mother had worn in her wedding as well as her future mother-in-law's diamond tennis bracelet, and mother's sapphire ring for "something blue."

For her daughter's wedding Mrs. Lukich wore a black floor-length

gown designed with an array of sequins in floral-inspired designs complemented by diamond drop earrings and a John Hardy bracelet given to her by her husband on their 10th wedding anniversary.

The bridegroom's mother, Mrs. Berkowitz, chose a gold satin organza one-shouldered floor-length gown complemented by Marco Bicego diamond and gold drop earrings. She also wore Pave diamond bangle bracelets that were given to her by the bridegroom, his sister, and her husband for a "special" birthday.

Both mothers carried embroidered handkerchiefs given to them by the bride and single white roses and gypsophila wrist bouquets.

Reception

Following the ceremony, the parents of the bride and bridegroom entertained at a reception at Biltmore Ballrooms.

A 36-foot long and four-foot wide estate table was dressed in classic black linens. Thirty-two gold Chiavari chairs provided seating in addition to a gold settee for the bridal couple. The center of this table featured glass candlesticks with black tapered candles encased in glass hurricanes, many elevated at different heights to add visual interest. The wedding party bouquets were placed in glass cylinders down the center along with a collection of clear glass vessels holding individual arrangements, designed in mass, of white hydrangeas, white roses, white tulips, white dianthus, and white stock. These were joined with boutique vases with arrangements of white ranunculus, white spray roses, white anemones, while hellebores, and white Omithogalum. Gold lattice votives completed the elegant table scape.

Each "glass gold" charger was topped with a black napkin in a box fold and held the white menu card. Guests' place card names were written by the bride on magnolia leaves using gold ink.

At the close of the festivities, the couple left for a wedding trip to South Africa where they enjoyed the winelands, Cape Town, and a safari.

Mr. and Mrs. Berkowitz are making their home in New York, N. Y.

Rehearsal Dinner

Joan and Jonathan Rogers of Baltimore, Maryland, and Susan and Steven Berkowitz of Kirkwood, Pennsylvania, aunts and uncles of the bridegroom, were hosts at a rehearsal dinner honoring Kristin Lukich and Andrew Berkowitz on the evening of their wedding.

Festivities were held at Urban Tree Cidery in Atlanta.

The bride-elect chose for the occasion a sequin white one-shouldered dress and white heels with feather accents.

Washington Personal Mention

Glenda and Harris Blackmon have returned from a two-week cruise where they enjoyed both the Eastern and Western Caribbean aboard the Caribbean Princess. Visiting Sunday with the Blackmons were Susan and Wayne Hisaw of Martinez.

PERSONALITIES!

Social News from the Washington area.

Please call or see Susan Pope -- 678-2330

or email: society@news-reporter.com

Kailla Nicole Baptiste to wed Joseph Desmond Reese

Mr. and Mrs. John Howard Baptiste III of Dunlap, Illinois, announce the engagement of their daughter Kailla Nicole, of Grovetown, to Joseph Desmond Reese, also of Grovetown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael William Reese of Evans.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Ms. Judy Merion of Springfield, Illinois, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Merion of Plainwell, Michigan, and Mr. and Mrs. John (Jack) Howard Baptiste Jr. of Edwards, Illinois.

Miss Baptiste attended Augusta State University through a volleyball scholarship and earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. She is Payroll Operations Manager at ADP in Augusta.

Mr. Reese is the grandson of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Eugene Pollock and the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Walton Reese, all of Washington.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in History from The University of South Carolina at Aiken and is



Kailla Nicole Baptiste
Joseph Desmond Reese

Team Leader for Comprehensive Services at ADP.

The wedding is planned for Saturday, April 16, at 5:30 p.m. at The Greystone Estate in Ballground.



Church officials conduct the service

Feast of the Purification celebrated in Sharon, Georgia

Over 100 people filled the historic Church of the Purification in the small town of Sharon on Wednesday, February 2, to celebrate the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the church's namesake. Archbishop Gregory Hartmayer celebrated the Mass along with several priests and seminarians from the Archdiocese of Atlanta. Purification Heritage Center President Betsy Orr commented, "Seeing the Archbishop, three additional priests, and three seminarians there in the sanctuary took my breath away."

After a moving service, guests were treated to a picnic and tours at Heritage Preserve, 200 acres of forest and farmland, which is being developed into a spiritual retreat center. The retreat center includes prayer gardens, fellowship spaces, and walking trails.

The Church of the Purification and Heritage Preserve are a part of Purification Heritage Center,

Smyrna Church Ladies Circle Meets February 8

The Smyrna Church Ladies Circle gathered Tuesday, February 8, in the fellowship hall for its luncheon meeting. The opening prayer and blessing were given by Joyce Barden and Joan Spears, hostess, served a delicious meal. A business meeting followed. Donations were made to OMCOR and the Church Scholarship Fund.

Plans for a suggestion box continued and hoped to be completed and explained to members in March.

The program was presented by Anne Garrard and Joan Spears. Ms. Garrard had each member list two good true things about themselves and one bad thing that needed improvement which led to a lively discussion.

Mrs. Spears shared a "Mysterious Ways" by Lori Kennedy from the January "Guideposts." Kennedy spoke to the lost and

depressed state she was experiencing upon returning to the family home after the California fires to find only ashes. After sifting through the ashes and gathering what little they could, they were leaving and, as she went to enter her car, she noticed a piece of paper stuck in her shoe. It read "If life seems difficult, pause and reflect on blessings sometimes hidden within that can bring change." She stated this helped her family begin again. She framed the scrap of paper and hung it in a prominent place in her home. Mrs. Spears stated that this story can help us understand that God is with us no matter how bad things seem. Ms. Garrard closed with prayer.

Purification Heritage Center offers tours and day retreats for groups and hosts special events and Masses throughout the year. More information about PHC, upcoming events, and how to schedule a visit or retreat can be found at www.Purification-HeritageCenter.org or contact Ginger DiMascio at friends@PurificationHeritageCenter.org, 706-817-2503.

Dr. Williamson appointed to Emory faculty

Dr. Meredith Williamson, Psychologist at the Atlanta Veterans Administration Medical Center, has been appointed to the faculty of the Emory University School of Medicine as Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Dr. Williamson's primary responsibilities will include teaching, training, service, and scholarship missions of the Emory University School of Medicine. She will also supervise interns from the Emory School of Medicine. These responsibilities will be in addition to her position as Psychologist at the Atlanta VAMC.

Dr. Williamson is a graduate of Washington-Wilkes High School, the University of Georgia, Georgia State University, and Argosy University School of Psychology. She resides in Brookhaven with her husband, James, and sons, Sean and Michael. Dr. Williamson is the daughter of Sharon and Wayne Williamson of Washington.

Lincoln-Wilkes Retired Educators hold meeting

The Lincoln-Wilkes Retired Educators Association (LWREA) meeting was held January 13. Emanuel Larkin Jr., Area XII Director of the Georgia Retired Educators Association (GREA), was the virtual speaker. LWREA is among seven local units in Area 12 under his direction.

In his dynamic presentation, Mr. Larkin emphasized the goals of GREA President, Dr. Henrietta Gray, and encouraged LWREA members to stay empowered to serve. He gave several examples of "This is your Moment." It is our moment to transform and take advantage of opportunities, to be patient and keep the faith and confidence, and to remain diligent. In Mr. Larkin's conclusion, a challenge was given to stick to retirement and "rest if you must, but don't quit," from *Don't Quit* by John Greenleaf Whittier. Mr. Larkin served 36 years in the Burke County School System as teacher, implementer of the gifted education program, and administrator. He retired from the System in 2005. Additionally, he was a Magistrate Judge in Burke County from 2009-2016. Mr. Larkin's term as Area 12 Director expires in 2022. LWREA wishes him much success as he is empowered to extend fellowship, service, and support. The Lincoln-Wilkes Retired Educators Association, organized on February 12, 2004, is a group of retired educators and friends of education with the express purpose of providing a continuing identity with the teaching profession and furthering the betterment of retired educators in Georgia. The organization is dedicated to promoting adequate programs beneficial to retired educators and fostering better fellowship among retirees. LWREA is committed to fellowship, service, and support among its members and the community-at-large.

Email your news for Personalities to

society@news-reporter.com

Please save any attached document as .rtf or .doc



Bridal Registry

Payton Burriss - Zac Brown

April 16, 2022

BABY
REGISTRY
Gabrielle Myers

Fievat
PHARMACY

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